

1. Oil skimming apparatus for minimizing the effects of a spreading of a spillage or leakage of liquid hydrocarbons on a body of water comprising:

a plurality of traps suited for end-to-end disposition upon a body of water, each trap being box-like in configuration and having top and bottom and side and end open mesh type panels,

a charge of strands of a polyolefin in each trap with interstices throughout the charge for increasing the adsorbing oil ensnaring characteristics of the charge,

an elongated horizontally-disposed tube freely mounted interiorly of each trap and extendable between the opposite end panels of each respective trap,

a plurality of spaced helically-arranged fins mounted on each tube exterior for defining in concert with a respective tube an agitation mechanism,

a continuous towing cable freely extendable through each tube for connecting and holding together the traps of the series and for allowing the towing of the trap series by the cable ends or to permit anchoring of the series by the staking of the cable at both of its termini,

(Claim 2 - continued)

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the cable serving to support each tube in a
free-wheeling rotative manner responsive
to the motion of the water flowing through
each trap with such rotation effecting
agitation of the strands of the charge,
and

a flexible liquid impervious membrane between
the spillage confronting side panels for
closing off the spaces between adjacent
traps.
